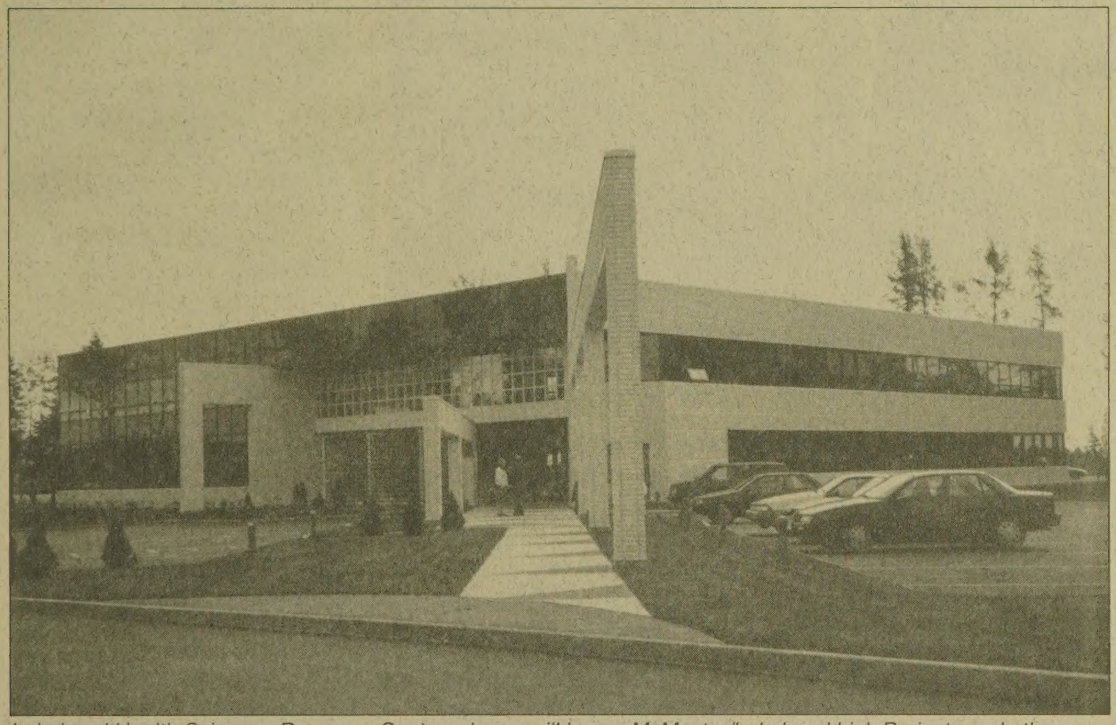
URBAN/MUNICIPAL
CA1ONHBL W49
N20

URBAN MUNI
NOV 8 1991
GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

Network
Oct. 1991 Volume III Number 4
Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University, Hamilton

Lakehead Health Sciences Resource Centre to house Northern education programs



Lakehead Health Sciences Resource Centre, above, will house McMaster/Lakehead Link Projects and others.

A new Health Sciences Resource Centre (HSRC) building has officially opened at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. The new building, funded by the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC), will house the McMaster/Lakehead Link Project.

Health sciences programs including the Northern Ontario Medical Program (NOMP), the new NOMP Family Medicine Residency Program, the new occupational/physiotherapy Northern Studies Stream, the Northern Educational Centre for Aging and Health (NECAH), and the Northern Outreach Program of the University of Western Ontario will be housed in the new HSRC.

The Lakehead/McMaster Link Project started in November 1988 as a joint effort between Lakehead University, NOMP, and McMaster University to establish programs to educate health professionals in Northwestern Ontario.

Speakers at the grand opening included NOHFC general manager Mr. Arne Sorenson, MOH northern health coordinator Mr. Hugh Drouin, MCU parliamentary assistant and MPP Mr. Wayne Lessard, past Lakehead BOG chair Mr. Jim Colquhoun, McMaster associate dean Dr. May Cohen, NOMP chair Dr. Peter Neelands, and MPP Shelley Wark–Martyn, Port Arthur riding.

Lakehead vice–president academic Dr. John Witfield was the master of ceremonies.

Several of the speakers at the grand opening emphasized the important role of the late Peter Maurer, Lakehead/McMaster Link Project administrator, as the driving force behind completion of the HSRC at Lakehead.

National Science and Technology Week

Oct. 18 - 27

"DNA Fingerprinting"
Tues., Oct. 22
Dr. Bradley White

"The Aging Brain"
Wed., October 23
speakers:
Dr. Sandra Witelson
Dr. Jack Diamond
Dr. Steven Garnett

"Are Engineers Stupid/The Challenges Facing Engineering Education in the 90s"
Thurs., Oct. 24
Mr. Robert Hudspith

All lectures will be held at 8 p.m., in Health Sciences Centre 1A1.

Inside Network

2 / Parkinson Foundation funds new research projects

3/ Faculty of Health Sciences appoints three new chairs

5/ Progress in search for drug to suppress erratic heartbeats

6/ Networking: October/ November events

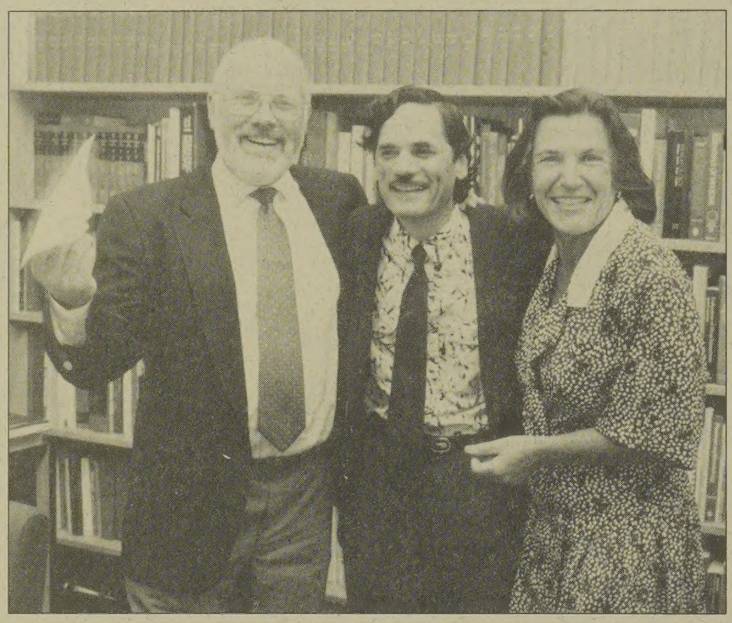
$125,600 in research grants

Parkinson Foundation creates research opportunities

The Parkinson Foundation of Canada has awarded research grants of $125,600 over two years for two faculty of health sciences projects. Pictured right, Dr. Ram Mishra, psychiatry, and health sciences dean Stuart MacLeod accept the award from Ms Grazyna Bergman, executive director of the Parkinson Foundation of Canada.

Dr. Mishra's award of $62,000 is to study gene expression for G–proteins (2nd messengers) in Parkinson's disease and to evaluate new drugs (peptide analogues) synthesized in Dr. Mishra's laboratory for their anti–parkinsonian activity.

Dr. Laurie Doering, anatomy, received $63,600 to continue investigation of a new transplantation technique (co–grafts of adrenal medulla plus peripheral nerve segments in the brain) used in the laboratory in an attempt to achieve a 100 per cent survival rate of the adrenal medulla. Adrenal medulla are potential sources of dopamine—a substance depleted in Parkinson's disease. The cells and trophic factors critical to the survival of the adrenal medulla in the transplants are under study. The funds awarded to research are raised publicly by the Parkinson Foundation—over the last nine years the Foundation's National Scientific Advisory Board has provided $3.2 million for these specialized research activities. There are about 78,000 Canadians afflicted with Parkinson's disease.



Dr. S. M. MacLeod, dean, faculty of health sciences, Dr. R. Misha and Ms Grazyna Bergman, executive director, Parkinson Foundation

Heart & Stroke Foundation awards $2.8 m

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario research grants totalling $2,861,673 for 1991 have been awarded for 32 different projects at McMaster's faculty of health sciences and in affiliated institutions, such as the Hamilton Civic Hospitals Research Centre, in the Hamilton regional health sciences network.

The funds also support two research scholars, eight career investigator awards and a distinguished research professorship.

The HSFO is the single biggest source of funds for heart and stroke research in the province. It supports two–thirds of all cardiovascular and cerebrovascular research—more that the federal and provincial governments combined.

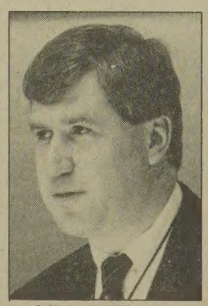
See 'Erratic Heartbeats' page 5.

Faculty events for 1993 named 'Tricennial' celebrations

Plans to celebrate three decades of innovation in education, research and service at the faculty of health sciences are moving steadily ahead. With the leadership of planning committee chair Dr. J. Forrest and the health sciences associate deans, academic and social events are planned to begin in 1993. The events, to be known as the Tricennial Celebrations, will have a distinctive logo denoting and emphasizing the faculty's integration of the three principal areas of academic activity (education, research and service) over three decades. Dr. Forrest presented plans–to–date and the new logo to the faculty executive committee on September 11. Faculty executive supported the logo which will appear in the next issue of Network.

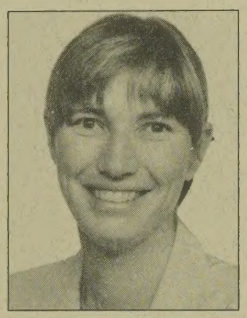
Health minister addresses community health forum

Mr. Michael Decter, Ontario's new deputy minister of health, was among several panelists who addressed *New Directions: Meeting Health Needs in Hamilton and Ontario* recently as part of a community health forum organized to assist health sciences students in assessing community health's role in health workers' education. Decter urged health professionals to work in the "hard places" in the system. New executive director of the Hamilton–Wentworth District Health Council Susan Goodman, health policy consultant Michael Rachlis, John Clark of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty, and Doug Sider director of the Health of the Public Project also spoke.

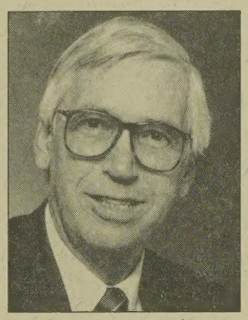


Michael Decter

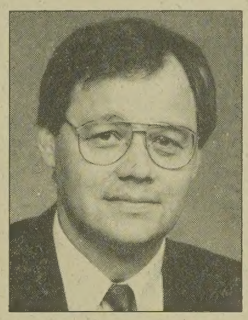
Faculty of health sciences appoints new leaders to three departments



Dr. J. Blake



Dr. R. McAuley



Dr. G. E. Gerber

McMASTER GRAD CHAIRS MD PROGRAM

Dr. Jennifer Blake, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, is the new chair of the undergraduate MD program in the faculty of health sciences. She is the first MD program graduate to become chair.

A McMaster graduate (class of '77), Dr. Blake completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology in Hamilton followed by a research fellowship in reproductive endocrinology.

She returns to McMaster from the University of Toronto where she was head of the division of pediatric gynecology at the Hospital for Sick Children.

"It was encouraging to see that both McMaster's graduates and its educational philosophy are so highly regarded elsewhere," Dr. Blake said. "We have a medical school we should all feel proud of. I hope that I will be able to make it easier for all our faculty to participate in the vital business of educating the residents and physicians of tomorrow. I'm very happy to be back and to be part of a great program."

McAULEY NEW CHAIR FAMILY MEDICINE

Dr. Ronald G. McAuley is the new chair of the department of family medicine. McAuley received his MD degree from Queen's University in 1954. His postgraduate training included an internship in Kingston, general practice residency in Cincinnati, Ohio, and medical care research fellowship at the School of Public Health, Yale University.

After 11 years in private practice in Hamilton, McAuley joined the new faculty at McMaster in 1967. His educational roles have included being chair of the MD program, chair of the faculty development program, and director of the family medicine residency program. His research interests include evaluation of student and resident performance, and peer assessment of physician performance. He has published numerous articles in peer–reviewed journals on these and other subjects. "The challenge for family medicine, with 34 full–time and 110 part–time members, is to contribute more actively to the mission of the faculty of health sciences," Dr. McAuley said upon his appointment. To accomplish this, he said, the department is developing a strategic plan.

Greater emphasis needs to be given to tutoring in the MD program, to responding innovatively to the needs of defined populations, and to evaluating such initiatives, he said. Further research initiatives are needed in quality assurance, education, population health, and disease prevention/health promotion, he added.

NEW BIOCHEMISTRY CHAIR NAMED

Dr. Gerhard Ernst Gerber, associate professor (tenured), is the new chair of the department of biochemistry.

Dr. Gerber received his PhD from the University of Toronto in 1975. He was a Medical Research Council (MRC) fellow (1975–1978) and a research associate (1978) in the chemistry and biology laboratory of Dr. H.G. Khorana at the Massachusetts Institue of Technology. He subsequently joined the department of biochemistry at McMaster in 1978 as an assistant professor and MRC scholar. He is a member of the Canadian Biochemical Society and the American Society of Biological Chemists.

He has developed novel chemical approaches, including photoreactive fatty acid analogues for studying the structure and function of membrane proteins. He is currently using these, as well as other biochemical and molecular biological methods, to study fatty acid trafficking in bacteria, yeast, adipocytes and myocytes.

Faculty member to oversee provincial AIDS activities

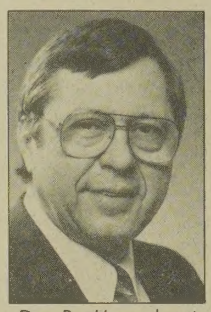
Dr. J. Browne, PhD, psychiatry, is the new AIDS co–ordinator for Ontario, Health Minister Frances Lankin announced recently. Dr. Browne, who joined McMaster in 1969 and is a former director of social work for Chedoke–McMaster Hospitals, will be in the Community Health Branch of the MOH co–ordinating all government and community efforts dealing with AIDS. Browne served on the Ontario Public Education Panel on AIDS between 1985 and 1989.

Dr. J.I. Weitz, medicine, received the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Medal in Medicine at the recent annual meeting in Quebec City. The $1,000–award recognizes young investigators' research contributions.Weitz addressed the meeting about his research of novel anticoagulants. Heparin is the standard anticoagulant used in heart attack, stroke and phlebitis.Weitz and his colleagues are studying why Heparin is limited in certain settings, and are researching a new class of anticoagulants.

Dr. Carl J. Zylak was named a fellow of the American College of Radiology (ACR) at the recent ACR annual meeting in Minneapolis, MN. Fellowships in the College are awarded to members for significant scientific or clinical research in radiology.

Briefly

Surgery department chair **Dr. Robert Hansebout** has been asked to lead an international delegation of neurosurgeons to China this October. The delegation is organized by the People to People International Citizen Ambassador Program in Spokane, Washington which was established by Dwight D. Eisenhower to foster information exchange among scientists from different countries. Experts in various fields of neuroscience and neurosurgery from around the world will join Dr. Hansebout, a widely–recognized expert in the treatment of spinal cord injury, in exchanging knowledge and experience with Chinese colleagues.



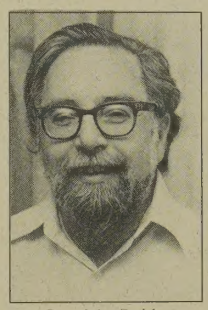
Dr. R. Hansebout

The Professional Association of Internes and Residents (PAIRO) Trust Fund has established clinical teachers travel awards at each of the academic health centres in Ontario. Recipients of the awards for 1991 at McMaster are **Drs. Barbara Schmidt**, pediatrics, and **Robert Hutchison**, obstetrics and gynecology. The $1,000 awards are for faculty members in the first five years of their university appointment who wish to visit another centre to improve their clinical teaching abilities through skills or knowledge acquisition. For further information contact PAIRO trust fund administrator Ms Brenda Hinton at (416) 979–1182.

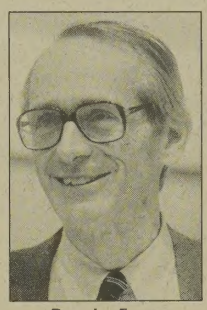
Dr. David Chui, pathology, has been elected to the Association of American Physicians. Chui joins McMaster colleagues Drs. E.J.M. Campbell, J.F. Mustard, D.L. Sackett, J.Hirsh, and J. Bienenstock—all previously elected to the Association. His nomination was made by Dr. R.A.Rifkind, chair of the Sloan–Kettering Institute. One of the founders of the AAP in 1886 was William Osler.

Dr. John Evans, founding dean of the faculty of health sciences at McMaster, has been named one of five Distinguished Educators for 1991 by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Evans, former president of the University of Toronto, now is president of Allelix Corporation and is a member of the new Ministry of Health–OMA Joint Management Committee.

Dr. Murray Enkin, professor emeritus obstetrics & gynecology, has won the 1991 Excellence in Medical Care Award from the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Ontario. The honor recognizes Enkin's dedication and commitment to providing the highest quality care to his patients. The award has been established in recognition of the 125th anniversary of the CPSO.



Dr. M. Enkin



Dr. J. Evans

Health sciences associate dean (health services), **Dr. May Cohen**, has been elected president of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada. She has been a member of the Federation for more than 30 years and has been on its board for the last ten years. The 900–member organization is committed to "the professional, social and personal advancement of women physicians and to the promotion of the well–being of women both in medicine and in society at large."

Dr. Edith Herman, OT/PT and medicine, has received the Canadian Physiotherapy Association's (CPA) Special Award for Education. The award was made in recognition of Herman's efforts to advance the profession of physiotherapy and her long–term commitment to the CPA.

Dr. Ram K. Mishra, psychiatry and biomedical sciences, has been selected by the United Nations Organization (UNO) to visit research and academic institutions in India to make initial contacts possibly leading to later collaboration in areas of mutual scientific and technological interest.

Mishra's visit will include discussions on knowledge and skills transfer in areas such as new molecular pharmacalogical and molecular biological techniques.

Topics of possible collaborative interest such as 2nd messengers as targets of drug action, G–proteins gene expression in mental and neurological disorders, the role of neuropeptides in immune systems, and the development of antipsychotic, anti–parkinsonian, and anti–tardive dyskinetic drugs will be covered.

Mishra, holder of an Ontario Mental Health Foundation Research Scientist Development award, will visit the All India Insititute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, and the Post–Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, from November 10 through December 10, 1991.

Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital has been awarded three–year accreditation—the maximum under current guidelines—by the Canadian Council on Health Facilities Accreditation (CCHFA). "I appreciate everyone's efforts at ensuring HPH is recognized by its peers as having met, or exceeded, the new national standards for psychiatric facilities," said HPH administrator Wayne Fyffe.

Hamilton Civic Hospitals news

Dr. George Woodward recently retired from his position as Civics vice–president and chief operating officer Hamilton General division. The long–serving administrator, who wanted to see the redevelopment of the General completed before retiring, asked that "no fuss" be made of his early retirement—1,400 people subsequently attended the July tea held to recognize his service.

Meanwhile, assuming new administrative duties at the Civics, **Ms B.S. (Trixie) Fee** has been appointed vice–president of HCH and chief operating officer of the General division.

A graduate of McMaster University, Ms Fee holds a post–graduate degree in health care administration from the University of Toronto.

She has worked at HCH since 1975 when she did her administrative internship there

PRELIMINARY STUDY SUGGESTS PROGRESS IN SEARCH FOR SAFE DRUG TO SUPPRESS

ERRATIC HEARTBEATS

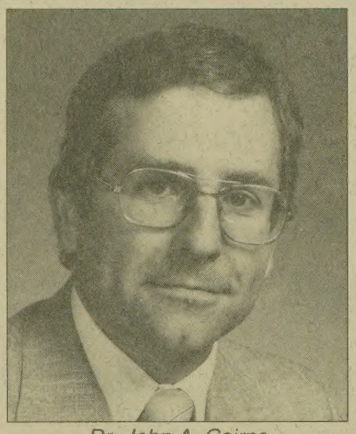
Scientists are still searching for safe and effective drugs to save patients from abnormal heart rhythms, or "arrhythmias." But a small, preliminary study published recently suggests that one such drug, amiodarone, effectively suppresses extra heartbeats in heart attack survivors.

"In this pilot study, even with a low loading dose, VPD (extra heartbeat) suppression was achieved in 63 per cent of patients within one week and 85 per cent of patients within two weeks," a McMaster health sciences research team reported in a recent issue of *Circulation*, an American Heart Association scientific journal.

VPD's, or "ventricular premature depolarizations," occur when the heart's main pumping chambers, the ventricles, pump irregularly or too often. "If a heart attack survivor has VPD's that occur frequently or in 'runs,' we know that patient has a four or five times higher chance of dying over the next couple of years," says Dr. John A. Cairns co-author of the new study and chair of medicine at McMaster's faculty of health sciences.

Physicians can pick out some of the people at the highest risk, but they are frustrated because they still don't have a good treatment to offer to such patients, Cairns says. "This has been a discouraging area to work in because in almost all of the studies of antiarrhythmic drugs, there has been no reduction in death rates."

One major study, the Cardiac Arrhythmia Suppression Trial (CAST), published two years ago, had to be stopped early because patients taking the two drugs being tested had a higher death rate than the patients who didn't receive a drug. Those drugs, encainide and flecainide, previously had been highly regarded.



Dr. John A. Cairns

"In this pilot study, even with a low loading dose, VPD suppression was achieved in 63% of patients within one week and 85% of patients within two weeks."

But the drugs tested in the CAST were Class I antiarrhythmics, Cairns points out. (Antiarrhythmic drugs are classified by their effect on the electrophysiology of the heart.) Amiodarone, a Class III drug, is "quite different" from all other antiarrhythmics that have been used in survival studies, he says.

Although many physicians have the impression that low doses of amiodarone help these patients, "we really don't have the proper studies to tell us if that is the case," he added. Amiodarone is widely used, especially in Europe and South America, Cairns says, while North American physicians tend to reserve it for patients who have failed to respond to other antiarrhythmic drugs. He says Canadian and U.S. physicians hesitate to use it because amiodarone has known side effects that can be severe and dangerous, including thyroid dysfunction and lung fibrosis.

Cairns' team hoped to avoid such side effects by using amiodarone at a relatively low dose. The pilot study included 77 patients (58 men, 19 women) who survived heart attacks and who had frequent 'runs' of VPDs, or had an average of 10 VPDs per hour, detected with electrocardiographic recorders the patients wore for a 24 hour period.

For every two participants randomly assigned to receive amiodarone therapy in the pilot study, one patient was given "placebos" or dummy pills. About one-third of the patients initially included in both groups were dropped from the study because they suffered side effects or didn't take their pills. The patients were followed closely for an average of 20 months. In light of the high risk of death in these patients, the number of side effects in patients taking amiodarone was "very reasonable," Cairns says.

Amiodarone had "quite a dramatic effect in stopping the arrhythmias" and the death rate was reduced by 50 per cent in patients who received amiodarone, he reports. "These results are very encouraging and we think they justify going ahead with our multicenter trial. With 1,200 patients and 30 hospitals across Canada taking part, the major study — which began about a year ago — is much larger than the pilot study that's the subject of the report in *Circulation*. The multicenter trial is the first large, "double-blind" (neither researchers nor patients know who is getting the drug and who is not), randomized study of amiodarone. Somewhat similar studies are underway in Europe and the United States.

"A lot of effort is being expended on trying to find good treatments for people who have extra heartbeats following a heart attack," Cairns says. Doctors aren't going to read this small pilot study and change their approach to the management of such patients right now, he says. But in three or four years, when the Canadian, European, and American studies are finished, "then we will know whether amiodarone is the right drug."

Meanwhile, doctors prescribing medications to control abnormal heart rhythms should re-evaluate their approaches, Cairns says. But he emphasizes that no patient should stop taking an antiarrhythmic drug without first seeing his or her physician. Cairns wrote the *Circulation* report with Stuart J. Connolly, M.D.; Michael Gent and Robin Roberts of McMaster, all co-principal investigators on the trial. The Medical Research Council of Canada funded the study.

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 2022 21336423 1

NETWORKING

Academic Studies:
For information contact G. Burditt, Academic Studies, Continuing Education, 521-2100, ext. 4900.

"Important Figures in the History of Canadian Medicine," Tuesdays, October 1 - November 26, 1991, 5:30-7:00 p.m. in HSC-3N5A.
Oct. 22 - Richard Maurice Bucke (1837-1902)
Oct. 29 - Emily Stowe (1831-1903), Augusta Stowe-Gullen (1857-1943), Jennie Trout (1841-1921)
Nov. 5 - Sir William Osler (1849-1919)
Nov. 12 - Helen MacMurchy (1862-1953)
Nov. 19 - Sir Frederick Banting (1891-1941), J.J.R. MacLeod
Nov. 26 - Norman Bethune (1890-1939)

Postgraduate Multidisciplinary Half Days - 1991-1992 Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m., in HSC 1A1 or 1A6.
Oct. 23 - Quality Assurance I - CPSO, Coroner's System, Hospital Quality Assurance Committees
Dec. 11 - Quality Assurance II - Mock Trial (with Judge, Defence and Prosecution Counsel, actual case arranged by CMPA)
Jan. 8 - PAIRO - Dr. C. Vanineveld
Mar. 11- CPC - Medical-Surgical-Pathological Conference, formal protocol, small groups, visiting discussant, Dr. E.K.M. Smith, Dr. T. Thomas
May 13 - Health Economics, CHEPA, Dr. A. Gafni

For information and registration, contact Grace Burditt, 521-2100, ext. 4900.

Gerontological Studies:
Oct. 19 - Fourth Annual Aging and Health Day, "Taking Charge of Your Own Health While Making the Most Out of Life", 8:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m., Scottish Rite Club. To pre-register contact Continuing Education, 521-7966.

History of Medicine, Wednesday noon lectures, 12:00-1:00 p.m., HSC-1A4, Ewart Angus Centre. Bring your lunch, coffee provided.
Oct. 23 - Mahlon W. Locke, M.D. of Williamsburg, Ontario (1880-1942) "Toe Twister Extra-Ordinary" by Robert Jackson, M.D., Clinical Prof. of Dermatology, University of Ottawa
Nov. 6 - The Genteel Practice of Cannibalism During World War Two, By Charles G. Roland, M.D., Jason A. Hannah Professor of the History of Medicine, McMaster University
Nov. 20 - Independent Living in the Community with Spinal Cord Injury, 1900-1950, by Prof. Mary Tremblay, Assoc. Prof., School of Occupational Therapy & Physiotherapy, McMaster University
Dec. 4 - White Shrouded Bodies on Roof Tops in Winter: The 1918 Flu Epidemic in Sub-Arctic Native Communities, by Ann Herring, PhD, Professor of Anthropology, McMaster University.

Haematology Lecture Series, "Blood Transfusion and Coagulation for Surgeons and Anaesthetists", Wednesdays, Oct. 2, 16 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in HSC-4N42.
Oct. 2 - 9:00-10:00 a.m., The ABC of Blood Coagulation, Dr. T. Warkentin; 10:00-11:00 a.m., Venous Thrombosis, Dr. J. Ginsberg; 11:00-12:00 p.m., Acquired Coagulapathies in Surgery, Dr. P. Powers.
Oct. 16 - 9:00-10:00 a.m., Blood Substitutes, Dr. M. Ali; 10:00-11:00 a.m., The Nuts and Bolts of Blood Transfusion, Dr. N. Heddle; 11:00-12:00 p.m., Infection and Blood, Dr. J. McBride

Each presentation will be 50 minutes followed by a 10 minute question period. Contact Academic Studies for information, 521-2100, ext. 4900.

McMaster Occupational Health, Hygiene and Toxicology Rounds/Joint Academic Studies Series
Held Wednesdays, Oct. 2 - 30, 1991 in HSC-1A5. Rounds: 12:30-1:30 p.m., Additional Discussions: 1:30-2:00 p.m.
Oct. 9 - Speciation of the Elements in Toxicology, Dr. E. Nieboer, Prof., Biochemistry
Oct. 16 - Principles of Geno-Toxicology and their Application to the Human Population, Dr. Darrell Tomkins, Assoc. Prof., Pediatrics and Biology
Oct. 23 - To be announced, Dr. John Turnbull, Asst. Prof., Medicine
Oct. 30 - Oncogenes and Growth Control, Dr. J. R. Smiley, Prof., Pathology
For registration or information contact Grace Burditt, Academic Studies, 521-2100, ext. 4900.

The Sixth Gladys Sharpe Lectureship, "A Singular Loyalty: Ethical Decision Making in Nursing", Nov. 4 . For information call 525-9140, ext. 2407.

Director(s) of Continuing Education,Health Sciences

A search committee has been struck to secure leadership in a number of key areas in Continuing Education. Formerly described by the title, "Director of Continuing Medical Education", these functions carry with them responsibilities for:

- planning/development of short courses in Continuing Education for all health professionals, especially those in medicine, nursing, OT and PT,
- development of regional activities (primarily hospital-based) for the McMaster region and beyond, using visiting clinician programs or teleconferencing,
- research and development in Continuing Education, including the development of new Continuing Education strategies.

These are key positions in the faculty of health sciences, in an area of considerable potential growth. These functions are closely inter-related, and are integral to the development of an academic presence in Continuing Education for the faculty. For information or inquiries, contact Dr. D.A. Davis, Chair, Continuing Education, 521-9800, ext. 4901 or Dr. E.K.M. Smith, Associate Dean, Education, 525-9140, ext. 2110.

McMaster University **Network**

Network is published by the Public Relations Office, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University, HSC-2E4, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3Z5. Tel:(416) 525-9140, ext. 2169 Fax: 529-3177
Editor: George McLauchlin
Printing: McMaster Printing Services

Network is printed on 75% recycled paper.

Movi
we've se
both m